

News from Rep. Stephanie Herseth
For Immediate Release
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HOUSE PASSES HERSETH EARMARK FOR SIOUX FALLS AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE

Military Quality of Life/VA Appropriations Bill Includes \$5.5 Million for Facility and Communications Upgrades at Joe Foss Field

May 26, 2005, Washington, D.C. – The U.S. House today passed the Military Quality of Life/VA Appropriations Bill, which included a \$5.5 million earmark for a facility and communications upgrade at Joe Foss Field in Sioux Falls requested by Rep. Stephanie Herseth.

Herseth said, “This \$5.5 million upgrade to Joe Foss Field will help modernize the base as it prepares to receive additional F-16 fighters in the coming years. The unfortunate recommendation of closure for Ellsworth Air Force Base reminds us that installation upgrades are critical to ensuring the mission of military bases, and this earmark is an investment in the future of this base in Sioux Falls.”

The Military Quality of Life/VA bill included Herseth’s request for a South Dakota Air National Guard Security Forces facility and communications upgrade. This funding will help the Air National Guard base at Joe Foss Field in Sioux Falls support an adequately sized and properly configured facility to accommodate security force functions, including command, administration, pass and ID, law enforcement, arms vault with cleaning and maintenance area, classroom, training and counseling, mobility storage, mobility pallet build-up area, and locker rooms. The communications upgrade will include computer maintenance and storage, tech centers, audio visual, base communication maintenance, base services and comptroller functions. The Pentagon has recommended that Air Base receive additional F-16 fighters in the coming years.

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